UNITED STATES KARATE ALLIANCE

BUSHIDO BULLETIN

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WORLD CHAMPIONS REPEAT LAST YEAR'S PERFORMANCE

by Rick Nathanson, 7th Dan

It happens only infrequently. The adult Black Belt Grand Champion winners at the 1999 USKA World Championships were the same individuals who won in 1998 -- **Cassandra Shults, John Manley and Phil Morgan**. In fact, for Mr. Morgan, the feat is a "three-peat."

The last time three returning champions did a repeat performance from the previous year was in 1994, when **Eddie Bethea, Monica Rivers** and **Walter Gomez** took the top prizes.

Also, this year for the first time, the weapons kata division winners competed in a run-off for a grand championship. The winner was **Bruce Heilman**.

Ms. Shults, a student at the **Jim Hawkes** Karate Academy in Albuquerque, last year defeated five-time women's Black Belt World Fighting Champion **Monica Rivers** of Louisiana. Rivers did not compete in individual kumite this year, but Ms. Shults had formidable competition from Louisiana's **Monique Dupaquier**, who trains under her husband, **Joe Dupaquier**, and **Susan Watts**, a student of **Dr. David Jordan**.

Ms. Shults said she relied primarily on her reverse punches for scoring points. "I'm not a kicker. The reverse punch is my bread

and butter," she said. "I think I fought very well this year -- very smart. It was probably some of the best fighting I've ever done in my life and I wanted my win to be decisive."

Ms. Shults also placed second in her kata division, second in weapons, first place in team kata with fellow dojo mates **Cathy Davis** and **Sue Hawkes**, and first place in team fighting with dojo partner **Amanda Bolton** and former fighting rival **Monica Rivers**.

John Manley, Dr. David Jordan, Cassandra Shults, James Hawkes

Because this World Championship was dedicated to the memory of **Grandmaster Robert Trias**, who died 10 years ago, Ms. Shults said it was an honor to be part of it and perform as well as she did in front of an audience that consisted of many luminaries from the days of the old United States Karate Association.

Men's Black Belt Kumite Grand Champion, **John Manley** of Indiana, stood his ground against Louisiana competitors **Joe Dupaquier** and **Kirk Bullock**, and **Eddie Bethea** of Indiana, all of them veteran competitors.

"I used movement and controlled the fight with distance," Mr. Manley said. "The way I work out, I practice movement the way I practice a backfist or a reverse punch. It's a technique. If I stand still I get beat because I give up reach on everybody," said the 5-foot, 4-inch fighter. "I'm in motion the whole time, but not a linear pattern. It's more circular." In his fight with Mr. Dupaquier, Mr. Manley said he relied on his backfist and his reverse punch. With Mr. Bullock and Mr. Bethea he threw more kicks. "It was gratifying to win," he said. "Everybody told me about the second-year jinx, but it really didn't enter my mind. I wasn't fighting to lose."

Phil Morgan of Indiana was the Black Belt Kata Grand Champion for the third year in a row. A student of **Herb Johnson** in Indiana, Mr. Morgan performed "Go Pei Sho," a kata that "has been my favorite since I was a brown belt," he said. "The kata also lends itself to tournaments, such as USKA World, where in the grand champion run-off, the bunkai must also be performed." Mr. Morgan used six "opponents" to demonstrate what he called "a higher level of bunkai."

Dr. David Jordan, Herb Johnson, Phil Morgan, James Hawkes

The version of Go Pei Sho he performs and teaches at his school in Indiana, he said, "is the same one found in the **Pinnacle**", a text by late Grandmaster Robert Trias. Mr. Morgan, however, has added a few variations shown to him by **Ridgeley Abele** of South Carolina, a member of the Trias International Society.

Glenn Keeney & Bruce Heilman

"It's always tough competition at USKA World Championships," Mr. Morgan said. "I've competed a lot over the last 25 years, and with a lot of different organizations, but there's no better people than USKA. The USKA is truly what I consider Karate-do. They're just good people who reflect the spirit of the martial arts. I haven't found that in any other organization."

The addition of a division run-off for Grand Champion Weapons is a good development, according to this year's winner **Bruce Heilman**, of Pennsylvania. "It gives an opportunity for the weapons competitors to take it to the next level and receive the same kind of recognition as competitors who perform empty hand kata. A grand championship for weapons essentially puts it on a par with fighting and kata."

Mr. Heilman performed Shima Igiri No Kun, a bo kata named for the island of Shima in Okinawa. The kata is actually two katas performed as a single entity, he explained. "It's a nice mixture of power and flow, and it shows dexterity and hand changes. There are a lot of powerful positions and flowing movement that you don't see in other traditional forms."

Chris Otwell & Ann-Marie Heilman

Mr. Heilman also had high praise for the other kobudo competitors, including **Guy Holtzman**, of California, **Eddie Bethea** of Indiana, **Buster Cotten** and **Kristin Gilliland** of Louisiana, and **Walter Gomez**, from Argentina.

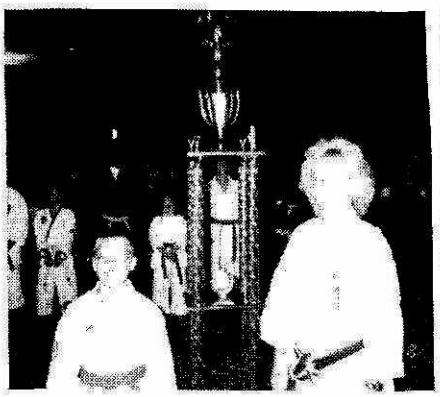
Ann-Marie Heilman & Angelica Drexel

Among the younger competitors, 1999 was the year 11-year-old **Chris Otwell** snagged a trophy for Youth Weapons Kata Grand Champion. The trophy joins at least a dozen other grand champion trophies from state and regional tournaments. "Because it was the World Championships and you compete against a lot more people who are more advanced, this grand championship means more to me," he said.

Mr. Otwell, who trains under **Buster Cotten** in Louisiana, performed Pyong An Bo, the third bo form in his system. "It's the most advanced weapons kata I know, and my instructor competes with it and he wins a lot. It's a good kata for me and some of the movements show a lot of power."

Seventeen-year-old Black Belt **Angelica Drexel** was the winner of the Youth Kata Grand Champion. Ms. Drexel, who studies under **Danny Gilliland** in Louisiana, performed Gankaku. "I like the side kicks in the kata," she said, but noted that it's not necessarily her best technique for kumite.

Other big winners at World were **Danny Widner** from Kempton, Indiana, who won the Youth Kata Beginning Grand Champion. Mr. Widner, 8 years old, trains under Terry Gruel.



Danny Widner & Ann-Marie Heilman

Alejandra Saavedra & Bruce Heilman

Bruce Heilman, Paul Scott, Josie Porter, & A.J. Stookey

A **double winner**, **Alejandro Saavedra,** from Argentina, took top honors for Adult Kyu Kata Grand Champion, **and** Adult Kyu Weapons Kata Grand Champion. Mr. Saavedra is a 1st kyu under Nestor Orellano of Argentina.

Finally, the Team Kata Grand Champion trophy went to Team Indiana, which consisted of Junior Black Belt **A.J. Stookey**, and Brown Belts **Paul Scott** and **Josie Porter**. The trio trains under **Glenn Keeney** at the Komakai Academy in Anderson, Indiana.

HALL OF FAME NEWS

by Eddie Bethea, Jr., President Hall of Fame

The United States Karate Alliance World Championships were a treat that should not have been missed. Everything was as well put together as it could be. This was a year of growth with many new activities and events for everybody. Those who were in attendance were well pleased with what they saw and with the events in which they competed.

As always, the US Karate Alliance Hall of Fame members were the primary officials for coordinating and officiating the event. There is not enough to be said for the men and the women of this elite organization, and the great contributions that they continue to make at all tournaments. They are unselfish, dedicated and devoted to furthering the growth of, not just karate, but all martial arts. This has been demonstrated time and time again, not only at the World Championships, but at every tournament they attend. If you find this hard to believe, just follow them as they move about at a tournament. There are many who will aspire to be a member of this spirited group of men and women.

The US Karate Alliance and the Hall of Fame members introduced a new award this year. This award, the Trias International Memorial, is to recognize individuals, who in or out of the martial arts, who exemplify the things that Grandmaster Trias represented. These individuals are the people from dojos who are working above and beyond their call. They may be nominated by their Sensei or a US Karate Alliance HOF member. It is required that nominations be into headquarters for review and selection by Nationals each year. Nominations will be done through submission of a narrative that will be reviewed by HOF members at Nationals. This narrative should be explicit in its representation of why this individual should be selected. The selectee will be

announced, and receive the Trias Memorial Award at the World Championship's banquet.

Dr. David Jordan, Dominic Laureano, & James Hawkes

Dominic Laureano was this year's recipient, and a much deserving recipient. He has distinguished himself through sustained dedication and devotion to Karate-do by acting as a leader and a role model in his dojo and the community. This young man continues to strive for perfection and achieves greatness in and out of the karate arena. Hats off to Dominic, the US Karate Alliance and the Hall of Fame will always stand behind him and encourage him in all of his endeavors.

Kirk Bullock, Eddie Bethea, Jr., Sue Hawkes

This year, there were two new members inducted into the US Karate Alliance Hall of Fame. Their spirits, their dedication, their devotion, and their loyalty can never be questioned. They have competed and continue to compete with an unquenchable exuberance. They are, and remain, at the top of their game. Let me introduce inductee Sue Hawkes, a champion many times over, and a terrific lady who is willing to go the last mile. Not only that, she packs power in her punches and kicks; and, she has been a force in weapons and kata. Introducing inductee Kirk Bullock, a very strong young man, who has continued to work to promote karate and development of the young people in his community. He is a dominant force in his community. He is a dominant force in his competing divisions, and will always be at the top with those who will be able to stand with him. I have

observed this young man through the years, and he has exemplified all of those things that have been said for, and about, the Hall of Fame. Sue Hawkes and Kirk Bullock have been inducted and welcomed into the United States Karate Alliance Hall of Fame. They will forever remain among the most elite of all time.

This was an especially exciting year. First, it was the tenth anniversary of Grandmaster Trias' death. It was exciting in that there were so many who attended the World Championships who were close to Grandmaster Trias, and they had many memories to share. Secondly, the HOF was honored in having Master Phillip Koeppel attend this year's HOF meeting. Master Koeppel is the founder of the United States Karate-Do Kai (USKK). The USKK also selects Bushido Award winners, which is the brother to the HOF. This year's HOF meeting also had three Bushido Award recipients in attendance with Master Phil Koeppel. This represents a true fellowship of brothers and sisters.

The USKA Hall of Fame members were again the highlight of the 1999 World Championships. That is, there was an HOF member competing in every finals division. Of course, that only goes to say that a HOF member won each of the Grand Championships, except the Black Belt Men's Kumite, which was won by John Manley, who is a Bushido Award member from the US Karate-Do Kai, which is a counterpart of the USKA HOF.

Now, they are gearing up for the next major event which is to be held in Canton, OH in September. That event, the PKC Grand Nationals, will bring competitors together from other parts of the country and the world. The USKA HOF will be there to continue to show that they are the elite, and can prevail in any arena. Be there, and support your favorite champions.

RULE CHANGES

The Board of Directors felt it necessary to make a couple of rule changes which will go into effect **October 1, 1999.**

Change #1 – The minimum number of competitors needed to create additional divisions has increased from three competitors, to four competitors. If a promoter has four competitors to create additional divisions, the Promoter may increase the number of divisions, provided that the remaining divisions have at least four competitors. Reference section 7.3.

Change #2 – If a promoter is offering Koshiki or Grappling at their Alliance-Sanctioned tournament, the minimum required divisions are:

Tots (8-9)
Youth (10-11)
Juniors (12-13)
Teens (14-15)
Young Adult (16-17)
Men's Kyu
Women's Kyu
Black Belt Men
Black Belt Women

If you have already purchased the latest Rule Book (Revised July 1999), and wish to receive these latest revisions, call Headquarters at (505) 872-1091 and request them. We will send out replacement sheets for these changes.

Announcements

Hall of Fame Workout:
The Hall of Fame workout is scheduled for Friday, September 17th from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the PKC Nationals in Canton, OH. Contact Headquarters if you need more information.

Robert A. Trias Memorial Award:
Nominations for the Robert A. Trias Memorial Award are due into Headquarters for review and selection by Nationals (April 13-16, 2000). Nominations will be

done through submission of a narrative that will be reviewed by HOF members at Nationals.

Tournament Promoters:
Just a reminder of the proposal that passed at Nationals that all **tournament results be submitted to headquarters within twelve days** after their tournament. Tournament Result Submittal Forms were sent out in the Tournament Promoter's packet. Please call headquarters at 505-872-1091 if you have not received yours.

USKA School Members:
Don't forget to send in your School Member's Web Site Information Form to Headquarters so we can list your school on the USKA Web Site. Call Headquarters at:
(505) 872-1091
if you need to request a form.

Rule Books:
The new Rule Books are available! Send $15.00 to Headquarters at P.O. Box 8643, Albuquerque, NM 87198, and request yours.

Point Year:
The new point year ends:
May 30, 2000
Remember, the points are now tabulated from the Promoter's results.

USKA Web Site:
The USKA Web Site address is:
www.uska.cjb.net

USKA Supplies:

Patches	$6.00
T-shirts	$12.00
Baseball Caps	$12.00
Window Decals	$2.00
Rule Books	$15.00

Send a check or money order along with your order, delivery address, and phone number to:

USKA
P.O. Box 8643
Albuquerque, NM 87198

More 1999 World Championship Memories

USKA Hall of Fame at the 1999 World Championships

Guy Holtzman, John Pat Bullock,
Joe Dupaquier, & Buster Cotten

Guy Holtzman, Cassandra Shults,
Monica Rivers, Amanda Bolton,
& James Hawkes

Guy Holtzman, Eddie Bethea, Jr.
Phil Morgan, & Mike Kincaid

James Hawkes, Walter Gomez,
& Dr. David Jordan

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